

CILRU



CENTER FOR ISLAMIC LIFE
AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

THE MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY AT RUTGERS

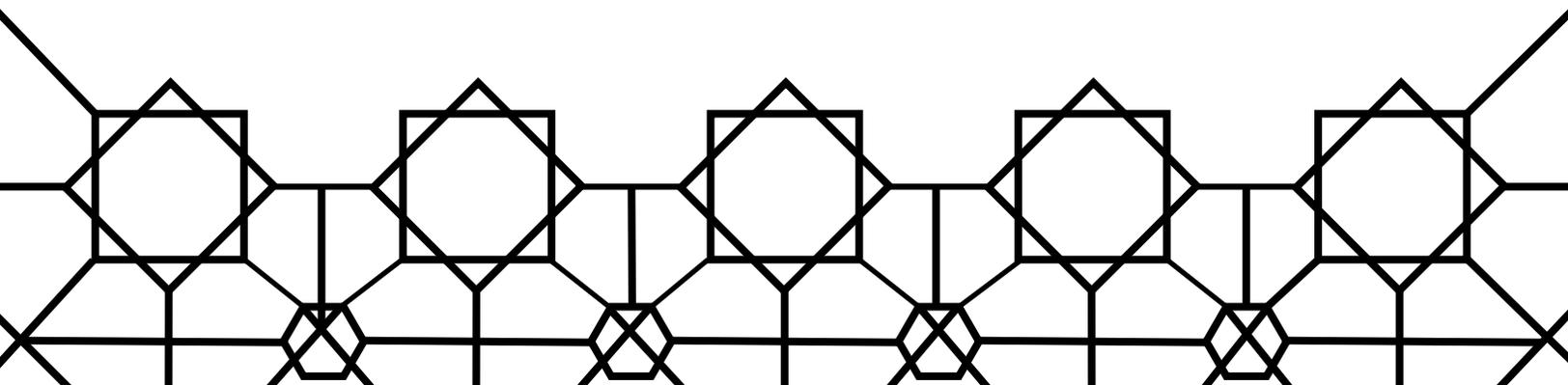




Table of Contents

Introduction	03
Executive Summary	04
Mission, Vision, Goals, CILRU Engaged	05
Role of the Chaplain	06
Meet our Chaplain	07
Chaplaincy Accomplishments	08
CILRU Space	09
2017 Budget	10
Organizational Structure	11





Introduction

- The Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University (CILRU) was formed as a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation in 2010. In 2011, CILRU was chartered as the sole Muslim chaplaincy at Rutgers University with the role filled with part-time volunteer chaplains.
- In August 2015, an exhaustive nationwide search was conducted by the Board of CILRU to find a Muslim chaplain. The Board utilized multiple contacts with national and local scholars, Muslim chaplains, and recommendations from various other educational institutions. After nearly 6 months of searching, and multiple rounds of interviews that included both Board members and student leaders, in early 2016, Kaiser Aslam was selected and hired as CILRU's first full-time Muslim chaplain at Rutgers. Chaplain Kaiser began work in August of 2016. This is the first full time dedicated Muslim chaplain at a public university!
- Rutgers is the eighth oldest university in America and one of the nine original colonial colleges. Rutgers celebrated its 250-year anniversary in 2016. Rutgers is world-renowned and is a top 25 university. Rutgers is a member of the Associate of American Universities, a member of the Big Ten and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation. Rutgers has over 40,000 undergraduate and graduate students, thousands of Muslim students and has many Muslim student groups – including the Muslim Student Association, Ahlul-Bayt Student Association, Jumuah Group and Muslim Public Relations Council.



Executive Summary

- Currently Rutgers has one of the largest and most diverse Muslim student populations of any university in America, with estimates of up to 7,000 Muslim students on campus. CILRU was formed to better serve these students in two primary ways: (1) to provide a full-time religious leader and pastoral caregiver (i.e. a chaplain) on campus, and (2) to provide a space for students to meet each other, learn and worship.
- The need today for such services at Rutgers is critical. In what may be the largest study ever conducted on changes in Americans' religious involvement, researchers led by San Diego State University psychology professor Jean M. Twenge found that millennials are the least religious generation of the last six decades, and possibly in the nation's history. Equally disturbing are the results of a study recently completed by the Family and Youth Institute that found that over 75% of Muslim college students have engaged in some mix of sexual activity, drug intake, alcohol consumption, and gambling.
- It is our belief that an institution must be created to facilitate and allow young Muslims to grow spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. We believe this institution starts with having a strong chaplain on campus that will accomplish three objectives. Firstly, to provide pastoral care, Islamic mentoring and counseling to Muslims on campus. Secondly, to encourage, disseminate, and facilitate Islamic education on campus and beyond. Lastly, to engage Muslims with their Muslim identity through creative and meaningful initiatives.



Mission

To provide an inclusive space and sense of community that enables students to foster a meaningful Muslim identity; to enrich and support students through quality educational, spiritual and counseling services rooted in relevant Islamic learning; and to advocate for the Muslims at Rutgers and facilitate community building and dialogue with people and representatives of all faiths and backgrounds.

Vision

Our vision for CILRU at Rutgers is of a vibrant, modern center that provides educational, spiritual and counseling services for students. We strive to provide a compelling, meaningful, and relevant practice of Islam that will inspire all who come in contact with it.

Goals

In the development of CILRU there are many key goals that we wish to accomplish and undertake with the project. By the grace of God we were able to meet our 2016 short term goals including: securing a paid full-time Muslim chaplain; securing a physical location; and creating and developing relevant educational, spiritual and counseling services. Our new short term goals are:

- Acquiring an exemplary permanent physical location.
- Expanding operations to include executive, administrative, and specialist staff.
Expanding our presence to Rutgers Newark and Camden campuses.



CILRU Engaged

- In pursuit of the goals to have a full-time chaplain and a dedicated space, CILRU has developed many strong relationships with key groups and individuals at Rutgers.
- First and foremost, CILRU has established a strong relationship with many of the Muslim Student groups at Rutgers, including Muslim Student Association, Ahlul-Bayt Student Association, Jumuah Group and Muslim Public Relations Council. Board members consistently attend the student group events, jummah prayer on campus, communication via email and phone and text. Also “group chats” have been created as an efficient methods of communication between CILRU and student groups. A CILRU Board member who teaches at Rutgers is a faculty advisor to Muslim student organizations.
- CILRU is engaged with other faith-based organizations at Rutgers. It has membership in the Multifaith Council at Rutgers and the Interfaith Alliance. These memberships include attending monthly meetings and co-sponsoring events. CILRU is working on creating and strengthening relationships with other university Muslim chaplains in the area and around the nation. CILRU also has developed ties with the local masjid leaders and communities.
- Additionally, CILRU has established strong relationships with the Rutgers administration and are involved in various aspects of administration and governance including active roles as adjunct professors at Rutgers, member of the Rutgers Bias Prevention and Education Committee and the Rutgers Board of Overseers.
- CILRU is working with the Rutgers University Muslim Alumni Association which was recently reactivated and recently launched the Muslim Faculty Forum.



Role of the Chaplain

- The Chaplain serves a diverse population at Rutgers with particular focus on the undergraduate Muslim community. In coordination with other religious and non-religious communities at Rutgers and in the broader area, the Chaplain facilitates programming that emphasizes the formation and maintenance of inclusive space in which the student and general community can foster a meaningful Muslim identity that is enriched through pastoral care and educational services. The Chaplain works with students, staff, faculty, and community members to support a healthy, diverse, and vibrant expression of Islam on campus. The Chaplain aids in empowering and advocating for students to raise their individual wellness with a special focus on their spiritual wellness.
- **Responsibilities of the Chaplain:**
 - **Support the Students:**
 - Provides individual and group pastoral care and spiritual guidance to Rutgers students and staff through regular office hours and is available to engage with students in one-on-one counseling, advising and mentoring on religious, spiritual, personal and academic issues.
 - Facilitates access to mental and physical health professionals when necessary and is familiar with campus resources for purpose of directing students who need assistance.
 - Supports Muslim organizations on campus by attending and assisting in events organized by the student community and aids in creating a culture in which they feel comfortable to utilize the Chaplain and available counseling services in times of need.
 - Identifies and invites disengaged Muslim youth to participate in the Muslim community, especially caring for the needs of new Muslims.
 - Leading and assisting in organizing activities that enrich Muslim presence on campus, including prayers, study circles, workshops and discussions that deal with engaging with and appreciating the diversity of the Islamic tradition in its theological, spiritual, pastoral, and cultural dimensions.
 - **Interface with Other Chaplains**
 - Cooperating with other campus chaplaincies, on the Rutgers campus and beyond, to encourage interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange, shared community service, and social outreach programs.
 - Facilitates access to mental and physical health professionals when necessary and is familiar with campus resources for purpose of directing students who need assistance.
 - **Interface with Rutgers Administration**
 - Advising and advocating for the Muslim community to the Rutgers administration on matters relating to Muslim beliefs, practices and rituals and making sure the University is doing what it needs to be doing to be a safe home for Muslims.



Meet our Chaplain

Chaplain Kaiser Aslam began as the Rutgers Muslim chaplain in August 2016. Previously, he served as the Muslim Chaplain at Wesleyan University. Kaiser has studied various classical Islamic sciences including Arabic, tafsīr, hadith, fiqh in his studies within the United States, as well abroad at Markaz Fajr in Cairo, Egypt and Al Amana Center in Oman.

Kaiser holds a Masters degree in Islamic Studies and Muslim-Christian Relations from Hartford Seminary. In addition to his work at universities, Kaiser has served as the Muslim Chaplain at Hartford Hospital and has served as a youth director at various community centers, most recently at Farmington Valley American Muslim Center.





Chaplaincy Accomplishments

1. Chaplain Kaiser has met with over 400 students providing pastoral care, including more than a hand full of Rutgers Newark and Camden students as well as students from other local colleges.
2. Chaplain Kaiser has conducted workshops on anti-Muslim sentiment for Residents Life and the Dean of Students and is seen as a resource for Muslim concerns to the faculty and staff. He is regularly called on to provide guidance to the University of how best to serve its Muslim community.
3. Chaplain Kaiser and CILRU have participated in interfaith meetings and programs and are often seen as pillars to the interfaith efforts at Rutgers.
4. Chaplain Kaiser led Eid-ul-Adha prayer and regularly leads Friday prayers on campus in which often over 300 students are in attendance.
5. CILRU supports our students by providing weekly snacks after Friday prayer.
6. Chaplain Kaiser conducts weekly "Chaplain Chats" after Friday prayer to provide a safe platform for students to have a discussion up current events or to talk about their personal experiences.
7. Chaplain Kaiser teaches "Study Circle" every Wednesday night at the Center for Islamic Life in which students try to attain "Islamic Literacy" in a variety of topics.
8. Chaplain Kaiser holds an "Understanding Dhikr" night every Tuesday night at the Center for Islamic Life in which he talks about and leads students in engaging with spiritual traditions in Islam.
9. Chaplain Kaiser holds a "Seerah Class" every Thursday at 5pm at the Center for Islamic Life, pointing out lessons from the life of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and how we can apply them in our own lives.
10. Chaplain Kaiser has met with Muslim student groups, both cultural and religious groups.
11. Chaplain Kaiser has been a guest lecturer for a few RU classes including "Islam in America" and courses aimed at training counselors and social workers. He has developed relationships with a number of RU faculty and staff.
12. Chaplain Kaiser is regularly called on to be the keynote speaker for Muslim student group events at Rutgers including MSA and ABSA.
13. CILRU participated for the second year in a row on a panel on religion at the Dean of Students annual conference and the Interfaith Alliance "Dialogues."
14. Chaplain Kaiser is regularly called on as a speaker by various Muslim communities around New Jersey.



Current CILRU Space

- Since Rutgers inception, there was no dedicated space for Muslims anywhere on campus. There are several locations across all the campuses for Muslim students and faculty and staff to conduct their daily prayers.
- Other student groups at Rutgers currently have large-scale buildings that provide their respective student communities with many needed services. Examples located directly on College Avenue include multiple fraternities, sororities, and religious-based Institutions. One such example of the latter is the Chabad House for Jewish students on campus that sits directly adjacent to the Rutgers Gym and Student Center. The Chabad House is a 90,000 square foot building, and includes a Kosher dining hall, dormitory with over 100 rooms, recreational space, and many other amenities.
- In December 2016, CILRU executed a lease for 1,000 sq.ft. of office space just off campus on Sicard Street. Our space has:
 - An office for the Chaplain that will include a space for the Chaplain to meet privately with students, and provide pastoral services.
 - A conference room and Board office for meetings and office needs.
 - A space for special events, gatherings and study sessions for CILRU guests and students.

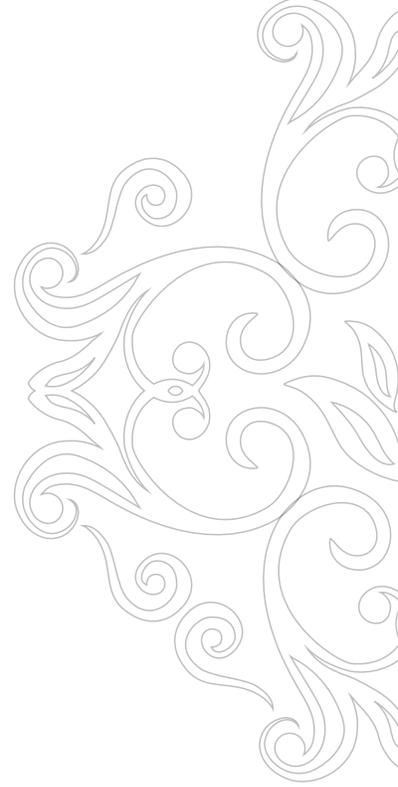


Our Goal -- Permanent CILRU Space:

- Our objective is to establish a permanent space on campus. The first "Muslim House" on any campus in the country. In addition to the uses above, we would like to purchase a building with space to have:
 - Large-scale multi-purpose room for regular meetings of student associations, special events, gatherings and study sessions.
 - A recreational area for students to socialize with each other and the Chaplain while playing board games, billiards, Ping-Pong, and other activities.
 - A food hall that will serve delicious nutritious snacks, tea and coffee and other halal options.
 - Size permitting, a dormitory that will provide students with access to campus housing in a positive environment. This can be a revenue generating endeavor.



2017 Budget



REVENUE

Corporate Donations	\$25,000
Friends and Family Donations	\$50,000
Alumni Donations	\$50,000
Community Donations	\$25,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$150,000

EXPENSES

Staff Salary/Compensation	\$75,000
Website Expenses	\$1,000
Rental Space/Office Expense	\$30,000
Programming	\$24,000
Misc. Expenses	\$20,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$150,000

CILRU has embarked on a serious multi-faceted fundraising initiative, including special event fundraising, online Launch Good “crowd funding” initiative, support from local Islamic centers, and ongoing solicitation from major donors, alumni and parents.

CILRU is off to a strong start, which began on October 24, 2015, when we held our first major fundraising event entitled “An Evening of Inspiration with Imam Zaid Shakir.” We exceeded our fundraising goal for the evening by raising over \$50,000. In addition we have been successful in seeking support from local masjids. On October 16, 2016 we had an event titled “Understanding Chaplaincy at Public University” with Imam Khalid Latif, where we were able to raise over \$50,000. Simultaneously we have focused on raising funds through a monthly recurrent donation campaign and we are collecting almost \$3,000 per month. Given all of these initiatives we were able to meet our 2016 fundraising goals.



Organizational Structure

The Board of Directors are comprised of the following members:

- Atiya Aftab, Esq. RC'88, RLawN '91, Chair
- Zeeshan Ali, LC '91, Treasurer
- Nidal Hozien, CC '92, Marketing and Information
- Anthony Ahmed Noel, Secretary
- Sami Shaban, Esq. UC '03

The Board of Overseers:

- Dr. Nadeem Baig
- Dr. Dalia Fahmy, Grad SAS '06, '11
- Dr. Hisham Hamawy, RC '91, RU NJMS '96



CILRU

CENTER FOR ISLAMIC LIFE
AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

THE MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY AT RUTGERS



P.O. Box 1701, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903
www.cilru.org | info@cilru.org | www.facebook.com/cilru/